Scholarships to students

851. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that grant of about Rs. 4 crores is due by December, 2005 from Central Government towards scholarships to the 16000 students in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, when the amount will be released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry releases funds to Government of Andhra Pradesh under the schemes of (i) Post-Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and (ii) Pre-Matric Scholarship to the Children of those engaged in unclean occupations for providing scholarships to about 4 lakh and 29 thousand students respectively. A sum of Rs. 27.97 crore under the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme and Rs. 2.50 crore under the Pre-Matric Scholarship have already been released during the current financial year 2005-06. The Ministry meets the total expenditure made by the State Government in a year over and above their Committed Liability under Post-Matric scheme. In case of Pre-Matric Scholarship, 50% of the total expenditure over and above the Committed Liability is met by the Ministry.

Declaring Lavana caste as Scheduled Tribe

†852. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh had unanimously adopted a proposal to declare the Lavana caste engaged in cow rearing in Himachal Pradesh as Scheduled Tribe, the Members of Parliament of the State have orally and in written form requested the Government to grant the status of Schedule Tribe to the above community; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and latest position of the said issue?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) There is no proposal received in the Ministry for inclusion of "Lavana"

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.